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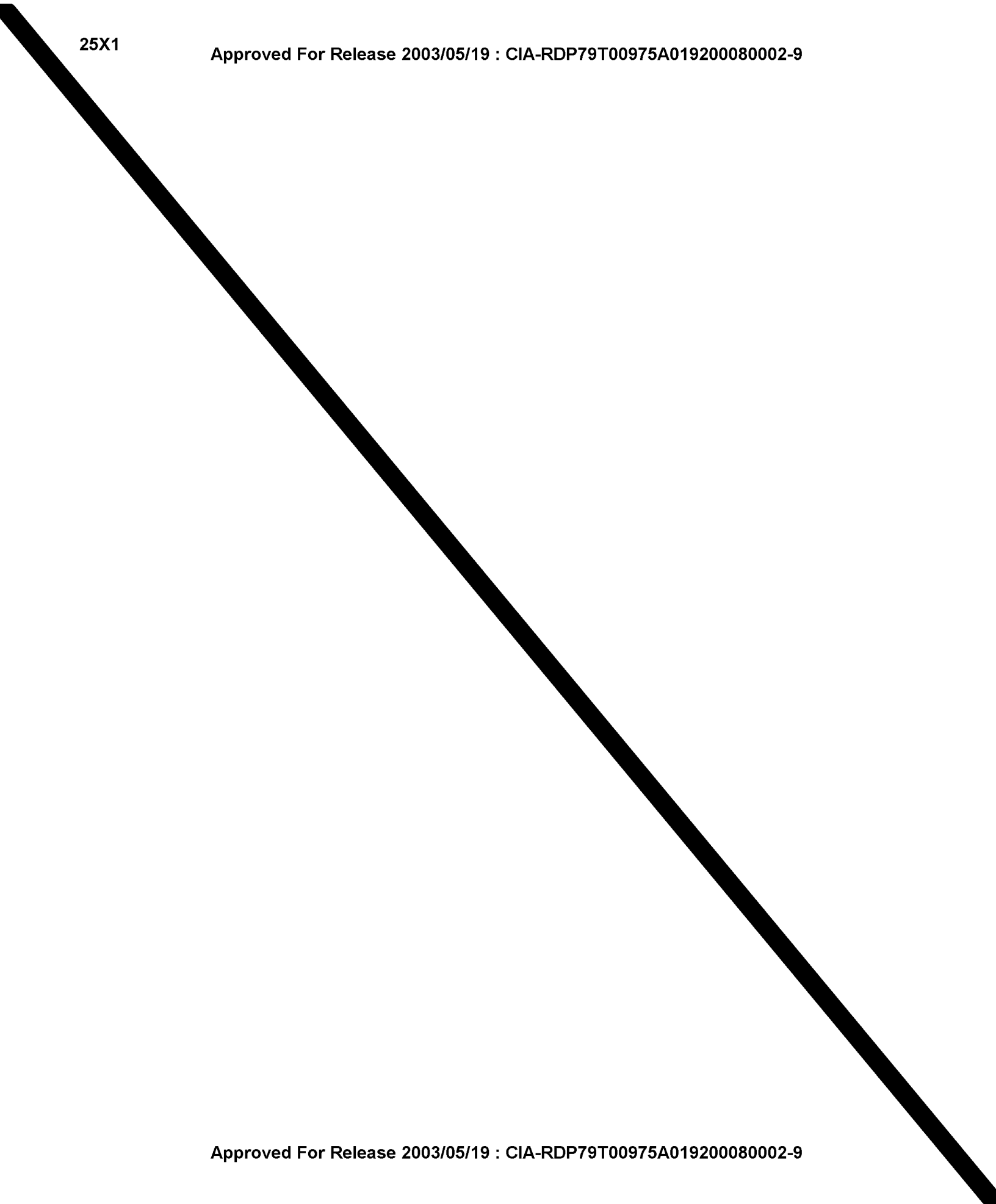

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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh has warned opposition politicians that New Delhi may have to take unilateral military action soon to solve the refugee problem.

Singh, in briefing the parliamentary opposition leaders on 4 June in preparation for his current trip to Washington, Moscow, and several other capitals, reportedly said that the refugee situation is rapidly becoming "impossible." He plans to tell world leaders that unless there is pressure on Pakistan to take the refugees back and there is extensive aid for them, India will take unilateral military action against East Pakistan.

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If this report accurately reflects Singh's position, it represents a significant movement by the foreign minister away from his previous "dovish" attitude toward Indo-Pakistani relations. It is possible that Singh's remarks are also part of India's major diplomatic campaign to influence foreign governments. Singh made it clear to the opposition party leaders that he did not care if they told everyone they knew about his position.

In Moscow, Singh's representations already have had some effect. In a joint communiqué on 8 June, Indian and Soviet officials called for greater efforts by Pakistan to stop the flow of refugees. They also urged that further steps be taken to restore peace and create conditions of security in East Pakistan so refugees would be willing to return.

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